

**SORIATANE - acitretin capsule**  
Stiefel Laboratories, Inc.

**Rx only**

## boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS

**CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS:** SORIATANE Capsules must not be used by females who are pregnant, or who intend to become pregnant during therapy or at any time for at least 3 years following discontinuation of therapy. SORIATANE Capsules also must not be used by females who may not use reliable contraception while undergoing treatment and for at least 3 years following discontinuation of treatment. Acitretin is a metabolite of etretinate (Tegison<sup>®</sup>), and major human fetal abnormalities have been reported with the administration of acitretin and etretinate. Potentially, any fetus exposed can be affected.

Clinical evidence has shown that concurrent ingestion of acitretin and ethanol has been associated with the formation of etretinate, which has a significantly longer elimination half-life than acitretin. Because the longer elimination half-life of etretinate would increase the duration of teratogenic potential for female patients, ethanol must not be ingested by female patients either during treatment with SORIATANE Capsules or for 2 months after cessation of therapy. This allows for elimination of acitretin, thus removing the substrate for transesterification to etretinate. The mechanism of the metabolic process for conversion of acitretin to etretinate has not been fully defined. It is not known whether substances other than ethanol are associated with transesterification.

Acitretin has been shown to be embryotoxic and/or teratogenic in rabbits, mice, and rats at oral doses of 0.6, 3 and 15 mg/kg, respectively. These doses are approximately 0.2, 0.3 and 3 times the maximum recommended therapeutic dose, respectively, based on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> comparison.

Major human fetal abnormalities associated with acitretin and/or etretinate administration have been reported including meningocele, meningoencephalocele, multiple synostoses, facial dysmorphism, syndactyly, absence of terminal phalanges, malformations of hip, ankle and forearm, low-set ears, high palate, decreased cranial volume, cardiovascular malformation and alterations of the skull and cervical vertebrae.

SORIATANE Capsules should be prescribed only by those who have special competence in the diagnosis and treatment of severe psoriasis, are experienced in the use of systemic retinoids, and understand the risk of teratogenicity.

Because of the teratogenicity of SORIATANE Capsules, a program called the *Do Your P.A.R.T* program, **Pregnancy Prevention Actively Required During and After Treatment**, has been developed to educate women of childbearing potential and their healthcare providers about the serious risks associated with acitretin and to help prevent pregnancies from occurring with the use of this drug and for 3 years after its discontinuation. The *Do Your P.A.R.T* program requirements are described below (see also PRECAUTIONS section).

### *Important Information for Women of Childbearing Potential:*

SORIATANE Capsules should be considered only for women with severe psoriasis unresponsive to other therapies or whose clinical condition contraindicates the use of other treatments.

Females of reproductive potential must not be given a prescription for SORIATANE Capsules until pregnancy is excluded.

SORIATANE Capsules are contraindicated in females of reproductive potential unless the patient meets ALL of the following conditions:

- Must have had 2 negative urine or serum pregnancy tests with a sensitivity of at least 25 mIU/mL before receiving the initial SORIATANE Capsules prescription. The first test (a screening test) is obtained by the prescriber when the decision is made to pursue SORIATANE Capsules therapy. The second pregnancy test (a confirmation test) should be done during the first 5 days of the menstrual period immediately preceding the beginning of SORIATANE Capsules therapy. For patients with amenorrhea, the second test should be done at least 11 days after the last act of unprotected sexual intercourse (without using 2 effective forms of contraception [birth control] simultaneously).
  - Must have a pregnancy test repeated every month during SORIATANE Capsules treatment. The patient must have a negative result from a urine or serum pregnancy test before receiving a SORIATANE Capsules prescription. To encourage compliance with this recommendation, a limited supply of the drug should be prescribed. For at least 3 years after discontinuing SORIATANE Capsules therapy, a pregnancy test must be repeated every 3 months.
  - Must have selected and have committed to use 2 effective forms of contraception (birth control) simultaneously, at least 1 of which must be a primary form, unless absolute abstinence is the chosen method, or the patient has undergone a hysterectomy or is clearly postmenopausal.
  - Patients must use 2 effective forms of contraception (birth control) simultaneously for at least 1 month prior to initiation of SORIATANE Capsules therapy, during SORIATANE Capsules therapy, and for at least 3 years after discontinuing SORIATANE Capsules therapy. A SORIATANE Capsules Patient Referral Form is available so that patients can receive an initial free contraceptive counseling session and pregnancy testing. Counseling about contraception and behaviors associated with an increased risk of pregnancy must be repeated on a monthly basis by the prescriber during SORIATANE Capsules therapy and every 3 months for at least 3 years following discontinuation of SORIATANE Capsules therapy. Effective forms of contraception include both primary and secondary forms of contraception. Primary forms of contraception include: tubal ligation, partner's vasectomy, intrauterine devices, birth control pills, and injectable/implantable/insertable/topical hormonal birth control products. Secondary forms of contraception include latex condoms (with or without spermicide), diaphragms and cervical caps (which must be used with a spermicide).
- Any birth control method can fail. Therefore, it is critically important that women of childbearing potential use 2 effective forms of contraception (birth control) simultaneously. It has not been established if there is a pharmacokinetic interaction between acitretin and combined oral contraceptives. However, it has been established that acitretin interferes with the contraceptive effect of microdosed progestin preparations.<sup>1</sup> Microdosed "minipill" progestin preparations are not

Timing of Paternal Acitretin Treatment Relative to Conception	Delivery of Healthy Neonate	Spontaneous Abortion	Induced Abortion	Total
At time of conception	5*	5	1	11
Discontinued ~4 weeks prior	0	0	1**	1
Discontinued ~6 to 8 months prior	0	1	0	1

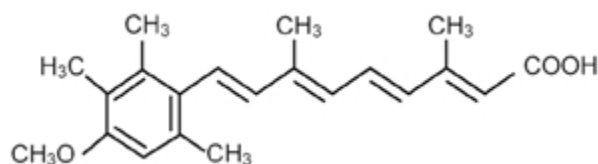
\*Four of 5 cases were prospective.

\*\*With malformation pattern not typical of retinoid embryopathy (bilateral cystic hygromas of neck, hypoplasia of lungs bilateral, pulmonary atresia, VSD with overriding truncus arteriosus).

**For All Patients: A SORIATANE CAPSULES MEDICATION GUIDE MUST BE GIVEN TO THE PATIENT EACH TIME SORIATANE CAPSULES ARE DISPENSED, AS REQUIRED BY LAW.**

## DESCRIPTION

SORIATANE Capsules (acitretin), a retinoid, is available in 10 mg and 25 mg gelatin capsules for oral administration. Chemically, acitretin is all-trans-9-(4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethylphenyl)-3,7-dimethyl-2,4,6,8-nonatetraenoic acid. It is a metabolite of etretinate and is related to both retinoic acid and retinol (vitamin A). It is a yellow to greenish-yellow powder with a molecular weight of 326.44. The structural formula is:



Each capsule contains acitretin, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium ascorbate, gelatin, black monogramming ink and maltodextrin (a mixture of polysaccharides).

Gelatin capsule shells contain gelatin, iron oxide (yellow, black, and red), and titanium dioxide. They may also contain benzyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, edetate calcium disodium.

## CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

The mechanism of action of SORIATANE Capsules is unknown.

### Pharmacokinetics

#### Absorption

Oral absorption of acitretin is optimal when given with food. For this reason, acitretin was given with food in all of the following studies. After administration of a single 50 mg oral dose of acitretin to 18 healthy subjects, maximum plasma concentrations ranged from 196 to 728 ng/mL (mean 416 ng/mL) and were achieved in 2 to 5 hours (mean 2.7 hours). The oral absorption of acitretin is linear and proportional with increasing doses from 25 to 100 mg. Approximately 72% (range 47% to 109%) of the administered dose was absorbed after a single 50 mg dose of acitretin was given to 12 healthy subjects.

#### Distribution

Acitretin is more than 99.9% bound to plasma proteins, primarily albumin.

#### Metabolism

(see Pharmacokinetic Drug Interactions: Ethanol.)

Following oral absorption, acitretin undergoes extensive metabolism and interconversion by simple isomerization to its 13-cis form (cis-acitretin). The formation of cis-acitretin relative to parent compound is not altered by dose or fed/fast conditions of oral administration of acitretin. Both parent compound and isomer are further metabolized into chain-shortened breakdown products and conjugates, which are excreted. Following multiple-dose administration of acitretin, steady-state concentrations of acitretin and cis-acitretin in plasma are achieved within approximately 3 weeks.

#### Elimination

The chain-shortened metabolites and conjugates of acitretin and cis-acitretin are ultimately excreted in the feces (34% to 54%) and urine (16% to 53%). The terminal elimination half-life of acitretin following multiple-dose administration is 49 hours (range 33 to 96 hours).

hours), and that of cis-acitretin under the same conditions is 63 hours (range 28 to 157 hours). The accumulation ratio of the parent compound is 1.2; that of cis-acitretin is 6.6.

## Special Populations

### Psoriasis

In an 8-week study of acitretin pharmacokinetics in patients with psoriasis, mean steady-state trough concentrations of acitretin increased in a dose proportional manner with dosages ranging from 10 to 50 mg daily. Acitretin plasma concentrations were nonmeasurable (<4 ng/mL) in all patients 3 weeks after cessation of therapy.

### Elderly

In a multiple-dose study in healthy young (n=6) and elderly (n=8) subjects, a two-fold increase in acitretin plasma concentrations were seen in elderly subjects, although the elimination half-life did not change.

### Renal Failure

Plasma concentrations of acitretin were significantly (59.3%) lower in end-stage renal failure subjects (n=6) when compared to age-matched controls, following single 50 mg oral doses. Acitretin was not removed by hemodialysis in these subjects.

## Pharmacokinetic Drug Interactions

(see also boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS and *PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions*): In studies of in vivo pharmacokinetic drug interactions, no interaction was seen between acitretin and cimetidine, digoxin, phenprocoumon or glyburide.

### Ethanol

Clinical evidence has shown that etretinate (a retinoid with a much longer half-life, see below) can be formed with concurrent ingestion of acitretin and ethanol. In a two-way crossover study, all 10 subjects formed etretinate with concurrent ingestion of a single 100 mg oral dose of acitretin during a 3-hour period of ethanol ingestion (total ethanol, approximately 1.4 g/kg body weight). A mean peak etretinate concentration of 59 ng/mL (range 22 to 105 ng/mL) was observed, and extrapolation of AUC values indicated that the formation of etretinate in this study was comparable to a single 5 mg oral dose of etretinate. There was no detectable formation of etretinate when a single 100 mg oral dose of acitretin was administered without concurrent ethanol ingestion, although the formation of etretinate without concurrent ethanol ingestion cannot be excluded (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS). Of 93 evaluable psoriatic patients on acitretin therapy in several foreign studies (10 to 80 mg/day), 16% had measurable etretinate levels (>5 ng/mL).

Etretinate has a much longer elimination half-life compared to that of acitretin. In one study the apparent mean terminal half-life after 6 months of therapy was approximately 120 days (range 84 to 168 days). In another study of 47 patients treated chronically with etretinate, 5 had detectable serum drug levels (in the range of 0.5 to 12 ng/mL) 2.1 to 2.9 years after therapy was discontinued. The long half-life appears to be due to storage of etretinate in adipose tissue.

### Progestin-only Contraceptives

It has not been established if there is a pharmacokinetic interaction between acitretin and combined oral contraceptives. However, it has been established that acitretin interferes with the contraceptive effect of microdosed progestin preparations.<sup>1</sup> Microdosed “minipill” progestin preparations are *not* recommended for use with SORIATANE Capsules. *It is not known whether other progestational contraceptives, such as implants and injectables, are adequate methods of contraception during acitretin therapy.*

## CLINICAL STUDIES

In two double-blind placebo controlled studies, SORIATANE Capsules were administered once daily to patients with severe psoriasis (ie, covering at least 10% to 20% of the body surface area). At 8 weeks (see Table 1) patients treated in Study A with 50 mg SORIATANE Capsules per day showed significant improvements ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) relative to baseline and to placebo in the physician’s global evaluation and in the mean ratings of severity of psoriasis (scaling, thickness, and erythema). In study B, differences from baseline and from placebo were statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) for all variables at both the 25 mg and 50 mg doses; it should be noted for Study B that no statistical adjustment for multiplicity was carried out.

Table 1. Summary of the SORIATANE Capsules Efficacy Results of the 8-Week Double-Blind Phase of Studies A and B

Efficacy Variables	Study A		Study B		
	Total daily dose		Total daily dose		
	Placebo (N=29)	50 mg (N=29)	Placebo (N=72)	25 mg (N=74)	50 mg (N=71)
Physician’s Global Evaluation					

Baseline	4.62	4.55	4.43	4.37	4.49
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.29	-2.00*	-0.06	-1.06*	-1.57*
<b>Scaling</b>					
Baseline	4.10	3.76	3.97	4.11	4.10
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.22	-1.62*	-0.21	-1.50*	-1.78*
<b>Thickness</b>					
Baseline	4.10	4.10	4.03	4.11	4.20
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.39	-2.10*	-0.18	-1.43*	-2.11*
<b>Erythema</b>					
Baseline	4.21	4.59	4.42	4.24	4.45
Mean Change After 8 Weeks	-0.33	-2.10*	-0.37	-1.12*	-1.65*

\*Values were statistically significantly different from placebo and from baseline ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). No adjustment for multiplicity was done for Study B.

The efficacy variables consisted of: the mean severity rating of scale, lesion thickness, erythema, and the physician's global evaluation of the current status of the disease. Ratings of scaling, erythema, and lesion thickness, and the ratings of the global assessments were made using a seven-point scale (0=none, 1=trace, 2=mild, 3=mild-moderate, 4=moderate, 5=moderate-severe, 6=severe).

A subset of 141 patients from both pivotal studies A and B continued to receive SORIATANE Capsules in an open fashion for up to 24 weeks. At the end of the treatment period, all efficacy variables, as indicated in Table 2, were significantly improved ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) from baseline, including extent of psoriasis, mean ratings of psoriasis severity and physician's global evaluation.

Table 2. Summary of the First Course of SORIATANE Capsules Therapy (24 Weeks)

Variables	Study A	Study B
<b>Mean Total Daily SORIATANE Capsules Dose (mg)</b>	42.8	43.1
<b>Mean Duration of Therapy (Weeks)</b>	21.1	22.6
<b>Physician's Global Evaluation</b>	<b>N=39</b>	<b>N=98</b>
Baseline	4.51	4.43
Mean Change From Baseline	-2.26*	-2.60*
<b>Scaling</b>	<b>N=59</b>	<b>N=132</b>
Baseline	3.97	4.07
Mean Change From Baseline	-2.15*	-2.42*
<b>Thickness</b>	<b>N=59</b>	<b>N=132</b>
Baseline	4.00	4.12
Mean Change From Baseline	-2.44*	-2.66*
<b>Erythema</b>	<b>N=59</b>	<b>N=132</b>
Baseline	4.35	4.33
Mean Change From Baseline	-2.31*	-2.29*

\*Indicates that the difference from baseline was statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.01$ ).

The efficacy variables consisted of: the mean severity rating of scale, lesion thickness, erythema, and the physician's global evaluation of the current status of the disease. Ratings of scaling, erythema, and lesion thickness, and the ratings of the global assessments were made using a seven-point scale (0=none, 1=trace, 2=mild, 3=mild-moderate, 4=moderate, 5=moderate-severe, 6=severe).

All efficacy variables improved significantly in a subset of 55 patients from Study A treated for a second, 6-month maintenance course of therapy (for a total of 12 months of treatment); a small subset of patients (n=4) from Study A continued to improve after a third 6-month course of therapy (for a total of 18 months of treatment).

## INDICATIONS AND USAGE

SORIATANE Capsules are indicated for the treatment of severe psoriasis in adults. Because of significant adverse effects associated with its use, SORIATANE Capsules should be prescribed only by those knowledgeable in the systemic use of retinoids. In females of reproductive potential, SORIATANE Capsules should be reserved for non-pregnant patients who are unresponsive to other therapies

or whose clinical condition contraindicates the use of other treatments (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS—SORIATANE Capsules can cause severe birth defects).

Most patients experience relapse of psoriasis after discontinuing therapy. Subsequent courses, when clinically indicated, have produced efficacy results similar to the initial course of therapy.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

### Pregnancy Category X

(see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS).

SORIATANE Capsules are contraindicated in patients with severely impaired liver or kidney function and in patients with chronic abnormally elevated blood lipid values (see *boxed WARNINGS: Hepatotoxicity*, *WARNINGS: Lipids and Possible Cardiovascular Effects*, and *PRECAUTIONS*).

An increased risk of hepatitis has been reported to result from combined use of methotrexate and etretinate. Consequently, the combination of methotrexate with SORIATANE Capsules is also contraindicated (see *PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions*).

Since both SORIATANE Capsules and tetracyclines can cause increased intracranial pressure, their combined use is contraindicated (see *WARNINGS: Pseudotumor Cerebri*).

SORIATANE Capsules are contraindicated in cases of hypersensitivity to the preparation (acitretin or excipients) or to other retinoids.

## WARNINGS

(see also boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS)

**Hepatotoxicity:** Of the 525 patients treated in US clinical trials, 2 had clinical jaundice with elevated serum bilirubin and transaminases considered related to SORIATANE Capsules treatment. Liver function test results in these patients returned to normal after SORIATANE Capsules were discontinued. Two of the 1289 patients treated in European clinical trials developed biopsy-confirmed toxic hepatitis. A second biopsy in one of these patients revealed nodule formation suggestive of cirrhosis. One patient in a Canadian clinical trial of 63 patients developed a three-fold increase of transaminases. A liver biopsy of this patient showed mild lobular disarray, multifocal hepatocyte loss and mild triaditis of the portal tracts compatible with acute reversible hepatic injury. The patient's transaminase levels returned to normal 2 months after SORIATANE Capsules were discontinued.

The potential of SORIATANE Capsules therapy to induce hepatotoxicity was prospectively evaluated using liver biopsies in an open-label study of 128 patients. Pretreatment and posttreatment biopsies were available for 87 patients. A comparison of liver biopsy findings before and after therapy revealed 49 (58%) patients showed no change, 21 (25%) improved and 14 (17%) patients had a worsening of their liver biopsy status. For 6 patients, the classification changed from class 0 (no pathology) to class I (normal fatty infiltration; nuclear variability and portal inflammation; both mild); for 7 patients, the change was from class I to class II (fatty infiltration, nuclear variability, portal inflammation and focal necrosis; all moderate to severe); and for 1 patient, the change was from class II to class IIIb (fibrosis, moderate to severe). No correlation could be found between liver function test result abnormalities and the change in liver biopsy status, and no cumulative dose relationship was found.

Elevations of AST (SGOT), ALT (SGPT), GGT (GGTP) or LDH have occurred in approximately 1 in 3 patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules. Of the 525 patients treated in clinical trials in the US, treatment was discontinued in 20 (3.8%) due to elevated liver function test results. If hepatotoxicity is suspected during treatment with SORIATANE Capsules, the drug should be discontinued and the etiology further investigated.

Ten of 652 patients treated in US clinical trials of etretinate, of which acitretin is the active metabolite, had clinical or histologic hepatitis considered to be possibly or probably related to etretinate treatment. There have been reports of hepatitis-related deaths worldwide; a few of these patients had received etretinate for a month or less before presenting with hepatic symptoms or signs.

## Hyperostosis

In adults receiving long-term treatment with SORIATANE Capsules, appropriate examinations should be periodically performed in view of possible ossification abnormalities (see *ADVERSE REACTIONS*). Because the frequency and severity of iatrogenic bony abnormality in adults is low, periodic radiography is only warranted in the presence of symptoms or long-term use of SORIATANE Capsules. If such disorders arise, the continuation of therapy should be discussed with the patient on the basis of a careful risk/benefit analysis. In clinical trials with SORIATANE Capsules, patients were prospectively evaluated for evidence of development or change in bony abnormalities of the vertebral column, knees and ankles.

## Vertebral Results

Of 380 patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules, 15% had preexisting abnormalities of the spine which showed new changes or progression of preexisting findings. Changes included degenerative spurs, anterior bridging of spinal vertebrae, diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis, ligament calcification and narrowing and destruction of a cervical disc space. De novo changes (formation of small spurs) were seen in 3 patients after 1½ to 2½ years.

## **Skeletal Appendicular Results**

Six of 128 patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules showed abnormalities in the knees and ankles before treatment that progressed during treatment. In 5, these changes involved the formation of additional spurs or enlargement of existing spurs. The sixth patient had degenerative joint disease which worsened. No patients developed spurs de novo. Clinical complaints did not predict radiographic changes.

## **Lipids and Possible Cardiovascular Effects**

Blood lipid determinations should be performed before SORIATANE Capsules are administered and again at intervals of 1 to 2 weeks until the lipid response to the drug is established, usually within 4 to 8 weeks. In patients receiving SORIATANE Capsules during clinical trials, 66% and 33% experienced elevation in triglycerides and cholesterol, respectively. Decreased high density lipoproteins (HDL) occurred in 40% of patients. These effects of SORIATANE Capsules were generally reversible upon cessation of therapy. Patients with an increased tendency to develop hypertriglyceridemia included those with disturbances of lipid metabolism, diabetes mellitus, obesity, increased alcohol intake or a familial history of these conditions. Because of the risk of hypertriglyceridemia, serum lipids must be more closely monitored in high-risk patients and during long-term treatment.

Hypertriglyceridemia and lowered HDL may increase a patient's cardiovascular risk status. Although no causal relationship has been established, there have been postmarketing reports of acute myocardial infarction or thromboembolic events in patients on SORIATANE Capsules therapy. In addition, elevation of serum triglycerides to greater than 800 mg/dL has been associated with fatal fulminant pancreatitis. Therefore, dietary modifications, reduction in SORIATANE Capsules dose, or drug therapy should be employed to control significant elevations of triglycerides. If, despite these measures, hypertriglyceridemia and low HDL levels persist, the discontinuation of SORIATANE Capsules should be considered.

## **Ophthalmologic Effects**

The eyes and vision of 329 patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules were examined by ophthalmologists. The findings included dry eyes (23%), irritation of eyes (9%) and brow and lash loss (5%). The following were reported in less than 5% of patients: Bell's Palsy, blepharitis and/or crusting of lids, blurred vision, conjunctivitis, corneal epithelial abnormality, cortical cataract, decreased night vision, diplopia, itchy eyes or eyelids, nuclear cataract, pannus, papilledema, photophobia, posterior subcapsular cataract, recurrent sties and subepithelial corneal lesions.

Any patient treated with SORIATANE Capsules who is experiencing visual difficulties should discontinue the drug and undergo ophthalmologic evaluation.

## **Pancreatitis**

Lipid elevations occur in 25% to 50% of patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules. Triglyceride increases sufficient to be associated with pancreatitis are much less common, although fatal fulminant pancreatitis has been reported. There have been rare reports of pancreatitis during SORIATANE Capsules therapy in the absence of hypertriglyceridemia.

## **Pseudotumor Cerebri**

SORIATANE Capsules and other retinoids administered orally have been associated with cases of pseudotumor cerebri (benign intracranial hypertension). Some of these events involved concomitant use of isotretinoin and tetracyclines. However, the event seen in a single SORIATANE Capsules patient was not associated with tetracycline use. Early signs and symptoms include papilledema, headache, nausea and vomiting and visual disturbances. Patients with these signs and symptoms should be examined for papilledema and, if present, should discontinue SORIATANE Capsules immediately and be referred for neurological evaluation and care. Since both SORIATANE Capsules and tetracyclines can cause increased intracranial pressure, their combined use is contraindicated (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

## **PRECAUTIONS**

A description of the *Do Your P.A.R.T.* materials is provided below. The main goals of the materials are to explain the program requirements, to reinforce the educational messages, and to assess program effectiveness.

The *Do Your P.A.R.T.* booklet includes:

- \*The *Do Your P.A.R.T. Patient Brochure*; information on the program requirements, risks of acitretin, and the types of contraceptive methods

- \*The *Contraceptive Counseling Referral Form* for female patients who want to receive free contraception counseling reimbursed by the manufacturer

- \*The *Patient Agreement/Informed Consent Form* for female patients

- \**Medication Guide*

The *Do Your P.A.R.T.* program also includes a voluntary patient survey for women of childbearing potential to assess the effectiveness of the SORIATANE Capsules Pregnancy Prevention Program *Do Your P.A.R.T.*

## Information for Patients

(see Medication Guide for Patients and Patient Agreement/Informed Consent for Female Patients at end of professional labeling):

Patients should be instructed to read the Medication Guide supplied as required by law when SORIATANE Capsules are dispensed.

## Females of Reproductive Potential

**SORIATANE Capsules can cause severe birth defects.** Female patients must not be pregnant when SORIATANE Capsules therapy is initiated, they must not become pregnant while taking SORIATANE Capsules, and for at least 3 years after stopping SORIATANE Capsules, so that the drug can be eliminated to below a blood concentration that would be associated with an increased incidence of birth defects. Because this threshold has not been established for acitretin in humans and because elimination rates vary among patients, the duration of posttherapy contraception to achieve adequate elimination cannot be calculated precisely (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS).

**Females of reproductive potential should also be advised that they must not ingest beverages or products containing ethanol while taking SORIATANE Capsules and for 2 months after SORIATANE Capsules treatment has been discontinued.** This allows for elimination of the acitretin which can be converted to etretinate in the presence of alcohol.

Female patients should be advised that any method of birth control can fail, including tubal ligation, and that microdosed progestin “minipill” preparations are *not* recommended for use with SORIATANE Capsules (see *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetic Drug Interactions*). Data from one patient who received a very low-dosed progestin contraceptive (levonorgestrel 0.03 mg) had a significant increase of the progesterone level after three menstrual cycles during acitretin treatment.<sup>2</sup>

Female patients should sign a consent form prior to beginning SORIATANE Capsules therapy (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS).

## Nursing Mothers

Studies on lactating rats have shown that etretinate is excreted in the milk. There is one prospective case report where acitretin is reported to be excreted in human milk. Therefore, nursing mothers should not receive SORIATANE Capsules prior to or during nursing because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants.

## All Patients

**Depression and/or other psychiatric symptoms such as aggressive feelings or thoughts of self-harm have been reported.** These events, including self-injurious behavior, have been reported in patients taking other systemically administered retinoids, as well as in patients taking SORIATANE Capsules. Since other factors may have contributed to these events, it is not known if they are related to SORIATANE Capsules. Patients should be counseled to stop taking SORIATANE Capsules and notify their prescriber immediately if they experience psychiatric symptoms.

Patients should be advised that a transient worsening of psoriasis is sometimes seen during the initial treatment period. Patients should be advised that they may have to wait 2 to 3 months before they get the full benefit of SORIATANE Capsules, although some patients may achieve significant improvements within the first 8 weeks of treatment as demonstrated in clinical trials.

Decreased night vision has been reported with SORIATANE Capsules therapy. Patients should be advised of this potential problem and warned to be cautious when driving or operating any vehicle at night. Visual problems should be carefully monitored (see WARNINGS and ADVERSE REACTIONS). Patients should be advised that they may experience decreased tolerance to contact lenses during the treatment period and sometimes after treatment has stopped.

Patients should not donate blood during and for at least 3 years following therapy because SORIATANE Capsules can cause birth defects and women of childbearing potential must not receive blood from patients being treated with SORIATANE Capsules.

Because of the relationship of SORIATANE Capsules to vitamin A, patients should be advised against taking vitamin A supplements in excess of minimum recommended daily allowances to avoid possible additive toxic effects.

Patients should avoid the use of sun lamps and excessive exposure to sunlight (non-medical UV exposure) because the effects of UV light are enhanced by retinoids.

Patients should be advised that they must not give their SORIATANE Capsules to any other person.

## For Prescribers

SORIATANE Capsules have not been studied in and is not indicated for treatment of acne.

## Phototherapy

Significantly lower doses of phototherapy are required when SORIATANE Capsules are used because SORIATANE Capsules-induced effects on the stratum corneum can increase the risk of erythema (burning) (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

## Drug Interactions

### Ethanol

Clinical evidence has shown that etretinate can be formed with concurrent ingestion of acitretin and ethanol (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS and *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics*).



### Glibenclamide

In a study of 7 healthy male volunteers, acitretin treatment potentiated the blood glucose lowering effect of glibenclamide (a sulfonylurea similar to chlorpropamide) in 3 of the 7 subjects. Repeating the study with 6 healthy male volunteers in the absence of glibenclamide did not detect an effect of acitretin on glucose tolerance. Careful supervision of diabetic patients under treatment with SORIATANE Capsules is recommended (see *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics* and *DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION*).

### Hormonal Contraceptives

It has not been established if there is a pharmacokinetic interaction between acitretin and combined oral contraceptives. However, it has been established that acitretin interferes with the contraceptive effect of microdosed progestin “minipill” preparations. Microdosed “minipill” progestin preparations are not recommended for use with SORIATANE Capsules (see *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetic Drug Interactions*). *It is not known whether other progestational contraceptives, such as implants and injectables, are adequate methods of contraception during acitretin therapy.*

### Methotrexate

An increased risk of hepatitis has been reported to result from combined use of methotrexate and etretinate. Consequently, the combination of methotrexate with acitretin is also contraindicated (see *CONTRAINDICATIONS*).

### Phenytoin

If acitretin is given concurrently with phenytoin, the protein binding of phenytoin may be reduced.

### Tetracyclines

Since both acitretin and tetracyclines can cause increased intracranial pressure, their combined use is contraindicated (see *CONTRAINDICATIONS* and *WARNINGS: Pseudotumor Cerebri*).

### Vitamin A and Oral Retinoids

Concomitant administration of vitamin A and/or other oral retinoids with acitretin must be avoided because of the risk of hypervitaminosis A.

### Other

There appears to be no pharmacokinetic interaction between acitretin and cimetidine, digoxin, or glyburide. Investigations into the effect of acitretin on the protein binding of anticoagulants of the coumarin type (warfarin) revealed no interaction.

### Laboratory Tests

If significant abnormal laboratory results are obtained, either dosage reduction with careful monitoring or treatment discontinuation is recommended, depending on clinical judgment.

### Blood Sugar

Some patients receiving retinoids have experienced problems with blood sugar control. In addition, new cases of diabetes have been diagnosed during retinoid therapy, including diabetic ketoacidosis. In diabetics, blood-sugar levels should be monitored very carefully.

### Lipids

In clinical studies, the incidence of hypertriglyceridemia was 66%, hypercholesterolemia was 33% and that of decreased HDL was 40%. Pretreatment and follow-up measurements should be obtained under fasting conditions. It is recommended that these tests be performed weekly or every other week until the lipid response to SORIATANE Capsules has stabilized (see *WARNINGS*).

### Liver Function Tests

Elevations of AST (SGOT), ALT (SGPT) or LDH were experienced by approximately 1 in 3 patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules. It is recommended that these tests be performed prior to initiation of SORIATANE Capsules therapy, at 1- to 2-week intervals until stable and thereafter at intervals as clinically indicated (see *CONTRAINDICATIONS* and boxed *WARNINGS*).

### Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility

#### Carcinogenesis

A carcinogenesis study of acitretin in Wistar rats, at doses up to 2 mg/kg/day administered 7 days/week for 104 weeks, has been completed. There were no neoplastic lesions observed that were considered to have been related to treatment with acitretin. An 80-week carcinogenesis study in mice has been completed with etretinate, the ethyl ester of acitretin. Blood level data obtained during this study demonstrated that etretinate was metabolized to acitretin and that blood levels of acitretin exceeded those of etretinate at all times studied. In the etretinate study, an increased incidence of blood vessel tumors (hemangiomas and hemangiosarcomas at several different sites) was noted in male, but not female, mice at doses approximately one-half the maximum recommended human therapeutic dose based on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> comparison.

### Mutagenesis

Acitretin was evaluated for mutagenic potential in the Ames test, in the Chinese hamster (V79/HGPRT) assay, in unscheduled DNA synthesis assays using rat hepatocytes and human fibroblasts and in an in vivo mouse micronucleus assay. No evidence of mutagenicity of acitretin was demonstrated in any of these assays.

### Impairment of Fertility

In a fertility study in rats, the fertility of treated animals was not impaired at the highest dosage of acitretin tested, 3 mg/kg/day (approximately one-half the maximum recommended therapeutic dose based on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> comparison). Chronic toxicity studies in dogs revealed testicular changes (reversible mild to moderate spermatogenic arrest and appearance of multinucleated giant cells) in the highest dosage group (50 then 30 mg/kg/day).

No decreases in sperm count or concentration and no changes in sperm motility or morphology were noted in 31 men (17 psoriatic patients, 8 patients with disorders of keratinization and 6 healthy volunteers) given 30 to 50 mg/day of acitretin for at least 12 weeks. In these studies, no deleterious effects were seen on either testosterone production, LH or FSH in any of the 31 men.<sup>4-6</sup> No deleterious effects were seen on the hypothalamic-pituitary axis in any of the 18 men where it was measured.<sup>4,5</sup>

### Pregnancy

#### Teratogenic Effects

#### Pregnancy Category X

(see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS).

In a study in which acitretin was administered to male rats only at a dosage of 5 mg/kg/day for 10 weeks (approximate duration of one spermatogenic cycle) prior to and during mating with untreated female rats, no teratogenic effects were observed in the progeny (see boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS for information about male use of SORIATANE Capsules).

#### Nonteratogenic Effects

In rats dosed at 3 mg/kg/day (approximately one-half the maximum recommended therapeutic dose based on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> comparison), slightly decreased pup survival and delayed incisor eruption were noted. At the next lowest dose tested, 1 mg/kg/day, no treatment-related adverse effects were observed.

### Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established. No clinical studies have been conducted in pediatric patients. Ossification of interosseous ligaments and tendons of the extremities, skeletal hyperostoses, decreases in bone mineral density, and premature epiphyseal closure have been reported in children taking other systemic retinoids, including etretinate, a metabolite of SORIATANE Capsules. A causal relationship between these effects and SORIATANE Capsules has not been established. While it is not known that these occurrences are more severe or more frequent in children, there is special concern in pediatric patients because of the implications for growth potential (see *WARNINGS: Hyperostosis*).

### Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of SORIATANE Capsules did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. A twofold increase in acitretin plasma concentrations was seen in healthy elderly subjects compared with young subjects, although the elimination half-life did not change (see *CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Special Populations*).

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Hypervitaminosis A produces a wide spectrum of signs and symptoms primarily of the mucocutaneous, musculoskeletal, hepatic, neuropsychiatric, and central nervous systems. Many of the clinical adverse reactions reported to date with SORIATANE Capsules administration resemble those of the hypervitaminosis A syndrome.

#### Adverse Events/Postmarketing Reports

In addition to the events listed in the tables for the clinical trials, the following adverse events have been identified during postapproval use of SORIATANE Capsules. Because these events are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

#### Cardiovascular

Acute myocardial infarction, thromboembolism (see WARNINGS), stroke.

## Nervous System

Myopathy with peripheral neuropathy has been reported during SORIATANE Capsules therapy. Both conditions improved with discontinuation of the drug.

## Psychiatric

Aggressive feelings and/or suicidal thoughts have been reported. These events, including self-injurious behavior, have been reported in patients taking other systemically administered retinoids, as well as in patients taking SORIATANE Capsules. Since other factors may have contributed to these events, it is not known if they are related to SORIATANE Capsules (see PRECAUTIONS).

## Reproductive

Vulvo-vaginitis due to Candida albicans

## Skin and Appendages

Thinning of the skin, skin fragility and scaling may occur all over the body, particularly on the palms and soles; nail fragility is frequently observed.

## Clinical Trials

During clinical trials with SORIATANE Capsules, 513/525 (98%) of patients reported a total of 3545 adverse events. One-hundred sixteen patients (22%) left studies prematurely, primarily because of adverse experiences involving the mucous membranes and skin. Three patients died. Two of the deaths were not drug related (pancreatic adenocarcinoma and lung cancer); the other patient died of an acute myocardial infarction, considered remotely related to drug therapy. In clinical trials, SORIATANE Capsules was associated with elevations in liver function test results or triglyceride levels and hepatitis.

The tables below list by body system and frequency the adverse events reported during clinical trials of 525 patients with psoriasis.

Table 3. Adverse Events Frequently Reported During Clinical Trials - Percent of Patients Reporting (N=525)

BODY SYSTEM	> 75%	50% to 75%	25% to 50%	10% to 25%
<i>CNS</i>				Rigors
<i>Eye Disorders</i>				Xerophthalmia
<i>Mucous Membranes</i>	Cheilitis		Rhinitis	Dry mouth Epistaxis
<i>Musculoskeletal</i>				Arthralgia Spinal hyperostosis (progression of existing lesions)
<i>Skin and Appendages</i>		Alopecia Skin peeling	Dry skin Nail disorder Pruritus	Erythematous rash Hyperesthesia Paresthesia Paronychia Skin atrophy Sticky skin

Table 4. Adverse Events Less Frequently Reported During Clinical Trials (Some of Which May Bear No Relationship to Therapy) - Percent of Patients Reporting (N=525)

BODY SYSTEM	1% to 10%		< 1%	
<i>Body as a Whole</i>	Anorexia Edema Fatigue Hot flashes Increased appetite		Alcohol intolerance Dizziness Fever Influenza-like symptoms	Malaise Moniliasis Muscle weakness Weight increase
<i>Cardiovascular</i>	Flushing		Chest pain Cyanosis Increased bleeding time	Intermittent claudication Peripheral ischemia
<i>CNS (also see Psychiatric)</i>	Headache Pain		Abnormal gait Migraine Neuritis	Pseudotumor cerebri (intracranial hypertension)
<i>Eye Disorders</i>	Abnormal/	Decreased night	Abnormal	Itchy eyes and lids

	blurred vision Blepharitis Conjunctivitis/ irritation Corneal epithelial abnormality	vision/night blindness Eye abnormality Eye pain Photophobia	lacrimation Chalazion Conjunctival hemorrhage Corneal ulceration Diplopia Ectropion	Papilledema Recurrent sties Subepithelial corneal lesions
<i>Gastrointestinal</i>	Abdominal pain Diarrhea Nausea Tongue disorder		Constipation Dyspepsia Esophagitis Gastritis Gastroenteritis	Glossitis Hemorrhoids Melena Tenesmus Tongue ulceration
<i>Liver and Biliary</i>			Hepatic function abnormal Hepatitis Jaundice	
<i>Mucous Membranes</i>	Gingival bleeding Gingivitis Increased saliva	Stomatitis Thirst Ulcerative stomatitis	Altered saliva Anal disorder Gum hyperplasia	Hemorrhage Pharyngitis
<i>Musculoskeletal</i>	Arthritis Arthrosis Back pain Hypertonia Myalgia	Osteodynia Peripheral joint hyperostosis (progression of existing lesions)	Bone disorder Olecranon bursitis Spinal hyperostosis (new lesions) Tendonitis	
<i>Psychiatric</i>	Depression Insomnia Somnolence		Anxiety Dysphonia Libido decreased Nervousness	
<i>Reproductive</i>			Atrophic vaginitis Leukorrhea	
<i>Respiratory</i>	Sinusitis		Coughing Increased sputum Laryngitis	
<i>Skin and Appendages</i>	Abnormal skin odor Abnormal hair texture Bullous eruption Cold/clammy skin Dermatitis Increased sweating Infection	Psoriasiform rash Purpura Pyogenic granuloma Rash Seborrhea Skin fissures Skin ulceration Sunburn	Acne Breast pain Cyst Eczema Fungal infection Furunculosis Hair discoloration Herpes simplex Hyperkeratosis Hypertrichosis Hypoesthesia Impaired healing Otitis media	Otitis externa Photosensitivity reaction Psoriasis aggravated Scleroderma Skin nodule Skin hypertrophy Skin disorder Skin irritation Sweat gland disorder Urticaria Verrucae
<i>Special Senses/ Other</i>	Earache Taste perversion Tinnitus		Ceruminosis Deafness Taste loss	
<i>Urinary</i>			Abnormal urine Dysuria Penis disorder	

## Laboratory

SORIATANE Capsules therapy induces changes in liver function tests in a significant number of patients. Elevations of AST (SGOT), ALT (SGPT) or LDH were experienced by approximately 1 in 3 patients treated with SORIATANE Capsules. In most patients, elevations were slight to moderate and returned to normal either during continuation of therapy or after cessation of treatment. In patients receiving SORIATANE Capsules during clinical trials, 66% and 33% experienced elevation in triglycerides and cholesterol, respectively. Decreased high density lipoproteins (HDL) occurred in 40% (see WARNINGS). Transient, usually reversible elevations of alkaline phosphatase have been observed.

Table 5 lists the laboratory abnormalities reported during clinical trials.

Table 5. Abnormal Laboratory Test Results Reported During Clinical Trials - Percent of Patients Reporting

BODY SYSTEM	50% to 75%	25% to 50%	10% to 25%	1% to 10%
<i>Electrolytes</i>			Increased: –Phosphorus –Potassium –Sodium	Decreased: –Phosphorus –Potassium –Sodium
			Increased and decreased: –Magnesium	Increased and decreased: –Calcium –Chloride
<i>Hematologic</i>		Increased: –Reticulocytes	Decreased: –Hematocrit –Hemoglobin –WBC Increased: –Haptoglobin –Neutrophils –WBC	Increased: –Bands –Basophils –Eosinophils –Hematocrit –Hemoglobin –Lymphocytes –Monocytes
				Decreased: –Haptoglobin –Lymphocytes –Neutrophils –Reticulocytes Increased or decreased: –Platelets –RBC
<i>Hepatic</i>		Increased: –Cholesterol –LDH –SGOT –SGPT Decreased: –HDL cholesterol	Increased: –Alkaline phosphatase –Direct bilirubin –GGTP	Increased: –Globulin –Total bilirubin –Total protein Increased and decreased: –Serum albumin
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Increased: –Triglycerides	Increased: –CPK –Fasting blood sugar	Decreased: –Fasting blood sugar –High occult blood	Increased and decreased: –Iron
<i>Renal</i>			Increased: –Uric acid	Increased: –BUN –Creatinine
<i>Urinary</i>		WBC in urine	Acetonuria Hematuria RBC in urine	Glycosuria Proteinuria

## OVERDOSAGE

In the event of acute overdosage, SORIATANE Capsules must be withdrawn at once. Symptoms of overdose are identical to acute hypervitaminosis A, ie, headache and vertigo. The acute oral toxicity (LD<sub>50</sub>) of acitretin in both mice and rats was greater than 4000 mg/kg.

In one reported case of overdose, a 32-year-old male with Darier's disease took 21 x 25 mg capsules (525 mg single dose). He vomited several hours later but experienced no other ill effects.

All female patients of childbearing potential who have taken an overdose of SORIATANE Capsules must:

1) Have a pregnancy test at the time of overdose; 2) Be counseled as per the boxed CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS sections regarding birth defects and contraceptive use for at least 3 years' duration after the overdose.

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

There is intersubject variation in the pharmacokinetics, clinical efficacy and incidence of side effects with SORIATANE Capsules. A number of the more common side effects are dose related. Individualization of dosage is required to achieve sufficient therapeutic response while minimizing side effects. SORIATANE Capsules therapy should be initiated at 25 to 50 mg per day, given as a single dose with the main meal. Maintenance doses of 25 to 50 mg per day may be given dependent upon an individual patient's response to initial treatment. Relapses may be treated as outlined for initial therapy.

When SORIATANE Capsules are used with phototherapy, the prescriber should decrease the phototherapy dose, dependent on the patient's individual response (see PRECAUTIONS: General).

**Females who have taken Tegison (etretinate) must continue to follow the contraceptive recommendations for Tegison.**

## Information for Pharmacists

A SORIATANE Capsules Medication Guide must be given to the patient each time SORIATANE Capsules are dispensed, as required by law.

## HOW SUPPLIED

SORIATANE<sup>®</sup> (acitretin) Capsules are supplied as follows:

**NDC 0145-3800-01 10 mg CK Convenience Kit** containing: SORIATANE<sup>®</sup> Capsules 10 mg, bottle of 30 (NDC 63032-090-25)

[SORIATANE Capsules are brown and white, imprinted "SORIATANE<sup>®</sup> 10 mg" or "acitretin 10 mg",] and VersaFoam-EF<sup>™</sup> Emulsion Formulation Moisturizing Foam Net Wt, 3.3 Oz

**NDC 0145-4300-01 25 mg CK Convenience Kit** containing: SORIATANE<sup>®</sup> Capsules 25 mg, bottle of 30 (NDC 63032-091-25)

[SORIATANE Capsules are brown and yellow, imprinted "SORIATANE<sup>®</sup> 25 mg" or "acitretin 25 mg",] and VersaFoam-EF<sup>™</sup> Emulsion Formulation Moisturizing Foam Net Wt, 3.3 Oz

Store between 15° and 25°C (59° and 77°F). Protect from light. Avoid exposure to high temperatures and humidity after the bottle is opened.

## REFERENCES

1. Berbis Ph, et al.: *Arch Dermatol Res* (1988) 280:388-389. 2. Maier H, Honigsmann H: Concentration of etretinate in plasma and subcutaneous fat after long-term acitretin. *Lancet* 348:1107, 1996. 3. Geiger JM, Walker M: Is there a reproductive safety risk in male patients treated with acitretin (Neotigason<sup>®</sup>/Soriatane<sup>®</sup>)? *Dermatology* 205:105-107, 2002. 4. Sigg C, et al.: Andrological investigations in patients treated with etretin. *Dermatologica* 175:48-49, 1987. 5. Parsch EM, et al.: Andrological investigation in men treated with acitretin (Ro 10-1670). *Andrologia* 22:479-482, 1990. 6. Kadar L, et al.: Spermatological investigations in psoriatic patients treated with acitretin. In: *Pharmacology of Retinoids in the Skin*; Reichert U. et al., ed, KARGER, Basel, vol. 3, pp 253-254, 1988.

## PATIENT AGREEMENT/INFORMED CONSENT FOR FEMALE PATIENTS

**To be completed by the patient\* and signed by her prescriber**

CAUSES BIRTH DEFECTS/DO NOT GET PREGNANT<logo>

\*Must also be initialed by the parent or guardian of a minor patient (under age 18)

Read each item below and initial in the space provided to show that you understand each item. **Do not sign this consent and do not take SORIATANE<sup>®</sup> (acitretin) Capsules if there is anything that you do not understand.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Patient's name)

1. I understand that there is a very high risk that my unborn baby could have severe birth defects if I am pregnant or become pregnant while taking SORIATANE Capsules in any amount even for short periods of time. Birth defects have also happened in babies of women who became pregnant after stopping SORIATANE Capsules treatment.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

2. I understand that I must not become pregnant while taking SORIATANE Capsules and for at least 3 years after the end of my treatment with SORIATANE Capsules.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I know that I must avoid all alcohol, including drinks, food, medicines, and over-the-counter products that contain alcohol. I understand that the risk of birth defects may last longer than 3 years if I swallow any form of alcohol during SORIATANE Capsules therapy, and for 2 months after I stop taking SORIATANE Capsules.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

4. I understand that I must not have sexual intercourse, or I must use 2 separate, effective forms of birth control **at the same time**. The only exceptions are if I have had surgery to remove the womb (a hysterectomy) or my prescriber has told me I have gone completely through menopause.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

5. I understand that I have to use 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time for at least 1 month before starting SORIATANE Capsules, for the entire time of SORIATANE Capsules therapy, and for at least 3 years after SORIATANE Capsules treatment has stopped.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

6. I understand that any form of birth control can fail. Therefore, I must use 2 different methods at the same time, every time I have sexual intercourse.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

7. I understand that the following are considered effective forms of birth control: Primary: Tubal ligation (having my tubes tied), partner's vasectomy, birth control pills, injectable/implantable/insertable/topical (patch) hormonal birth control products, and IUDs (intrauterine devices). Secondary: Latex condoms (with or without spermicide, which is a special cream or jelly that kills sperm), diaphragms and cervical caps (which must be used with a spermicide). I understand that at least 1 of my 2 methods of birth control must be a primary method.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

8. I will talk with my prescriber about any medicines or dietary supplements I plan to take during my SORIATANE Capsules treatment because certain birth control methods may not work if I am taking certain medicines or herbal products (for example, Saint John's wort).

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Unless I have had a hysterectomy or my prescriber says I have gone completely through menopause, I understand that I must have 2 negative pregnancy test results before I can get a prescription to start SORIATANE Capsules. I will then have pregnancy tests on a monthly basis during my SORIATANE Capsules therapy as instructed by my prescriber. In addition, for at least 3 years after the end of my treatment with SORIATANE Capsules, I will have a pregnancy test every 3 months.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

10. I understand that I should not start taking SORIATANE Capsules until I am *sure* that I am not pregnant and have negative results from 2 pregnancy tests.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

11. I have received information on emergency contraception (birth control).

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

12. I understand that my prescriber can give me a referral for a free contraceptive (birth control) counseling session and pregnancy testing.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

13. I understand that on a monthly basis during SORIATANE Capsules therapy and every 3 months for at least 3 years after stopping SORIATANE Capsules treatment that I should receive counseling from my prescriber about contraception (birth control) and behaviors associated with an increased risk of pregnancy.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

14. I understand that I must stop taking SORIATANE Capsules right away and call my prescriber if I get pregnant, miss my menstrual period, stop using birth control, or have sexual intercourse without using my 2 birth control methods during and at least 3 years after stopping SORIATANE Capsules treatment.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

15. If I do become pregnant while on SORIATANE Capsules or at any time within 3 years of stopping SORIATANE Capsules, I understand that I should report my pregnancy to Stiefel at 1-888-500-DERM (3376) or to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) MedWatch program at 1-800-FDA-1088. The information I share will be kept confidential (private) and will help the company and the FDA evaluate the pregnancy prevention program to prevent birth defects.

INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have received a copy of the Do Your P.A.R.T.<sup>TM</sup> brochure. My prescriber has answered all my questions about SORIATANE Capsules. I understand that it is my responsibility to follow my doctor's instructions, and not to get pregnant during SORIATANE Capsules treatment or for at least 3 years after I stop taking SORIATANE Capsules.**

I now authorize my prescriber, \_\_\_\_\_, to begin my treatment with SORIATANE Capsules.

Patient signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature (if under age 18): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print: Patient name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I have fully explained to the patient, \_\_\_\_\_, the nature and purpose of the treatment described above and the risks to females of childbearing potential. I have asked the patient if she has any questions regarding her treatment with SORIATANE Capsules and have answered those questions to the best of my ability.

Prescriber signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEDICATION GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

SORIATANE®

[sor-RYE-uh-tane]

(acitretin)

CAPSULES

Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking SORIATANE Capsules and read it each time you get more SORIATANE Capsules. There may be new information.

The first information in this Guide is about birth defects and how to avoid pregnancy. **After this section there is important safety information about possible effects for any patient taking SORIATANE Capsules.** ALL patients should read this entire Medication Guide carefully.

This information does not take the place of talking with your prescriber about your medical condition or treatment.

### **What is the most important information I should know about SORIATANE Capsules?**

**SORIATANE Capsules can cause severe birth defects.** If you are a female who can get pregnant, you should use SORIATANE Capsules only if you are not pregnant now, can avoid becoming pregnant for at least 3 years, and other medicines do not work for your severe psoriasis or you cannot use other psoriasis medicines. Information about effects on unborn babies and about how to avoid pregnancy is found in the next section: “What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?”.

## **CAUSES BIRTH DEFECTS <icon> DO NOT GET PREGNANT**

### **What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?**

- **Before you receive your SORIATANE Capsules prescription, you should have discussed and signed a Patient Information/Consent form with your prescriber. This is to help make sure you understand the risk of birth defects and how to avoid getting pregnant. If you did not talk to your prescriber about this and sign the form, contact your prescriber.**
- **You must not take SORIATANE Capsules if you are pregnant or might become pregnant during treatment or at any time for at least 3 years after you stop treatment because SORIATANE Capsules can cause severe birth defects.**
- **During SORIATANE Capsules treatment and for 2 months after you stop SORIATANE Capsules treatment, you must avoid drinks, foods, and all medicines that contain alcohol. This includes over-the-counter products that contain alcohol.** Avoiding alcohol is very important, because alcohol changes SORIATANE Capsules into a drug that may take longer than 3 years to leave your body. The chance of birth defects may last longer than 3 years if you swallow any form of alcohol during SORIATANE Capsules therapy and for 2 months after you stop taking SORIATANE Capsules.
- **You and your prescriber must be sure you are not pregnant before you start SORIATANE Capsules therapy. You must have negative results from 2 pregnancy tests before you start SORIATANE Capsules treatment.** A negative result shows you are not pregnant. Because it takes a few days after pregnancy begins for a test to show that you are pregnant, the first negative test may not ensure you are not pregnant. Do not start SORIATANE Capsules until you have negative results from 2 pregnancy tests.
  - The **first pregnancy test** will be done at the time you and your prescriber decide if SORIATANE Capsules might be right for you.
  - The **second pregnancy test** will usually be done during the first 5 days of your menstrual period, right before you plan to start SORIATANE Capsules. Your prescriber may suggest another time.

• After you start SORIATANE Capsules therapy, you must have a pregnancy test repeated each month that you are taking SORIATANE Capsules. This is to be sure that you are not pregnant during treatment because SORIATANE Capsules can cause birth defects.



- For at least 3 years after stopping SORIATANE Capsules treatment, you must have a pregnancy test repeated every three months to make sure that you are not pregnant.

- **Discuss effective birth control (contraception) with your prescriber. You must use 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time during all of the following:**

- for at least 1 month before beginning SORIATANE Capsules treatment

- during treatment with SORIATANE Capsules

- for at least 3 years after stopping SORIATANE Capsules treatment

- **If you are sexually active, you must use 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time even if you think you cannot become pregnant, unless 1 of the following is true for you:**

- You had your womb (uterus) removed during an operation (a hysterectomy).

- Your prescriber said you have gone completely through menopause (the “change of life”).

- **You can get a free birth control counseling session and pregnancy testing from a prescriber or family planning expert. Your prescriber can give you a SORIATANE Capsules Patient Referral Form for this free session.**

- **You must use 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time while you are on SORIATANE Capsules treatment. You must use birth control for at least 1 month before you start SORIATANE Capsules, during treatment, and at least 3 years after you stop SORIATANE Capsules treatment.**

The following are considered effective forms of birth control:

**Primary Forms:**

- having your tubes tied (tubal ligation)

- partner’s vasectomy

- IUD (intrauterine device)

- birth control pills that contain both estrogen and progestin (combination oral contraceptives)

- hormonal birth control products that are injected, implanted, or inserted in your body

- birth control patch

**Secondary Forms (use with a Primary Form):**

- diaphragms with spermicide

- latex condoms (with or without spermicide)

- cervical caps with spermicide

***At least 1 of your 2 methods of birth control must be a primary form.***

- **If you have sex at any time without using 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time, or if you get pregnant or miss your period, stop using SORIATANE Capsules and call your prescriber right away.**

- **Consider “Emergency Contraception” (EC) if you have sex with a male without correctly using 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time.** EC is also called “emergency birth control” or the “morning after” pill. Contact your prescriber **as soon as possible** if you have sex without using 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) at the same time, because EC works best if it is used within 1 or 2 days after sex. EC is not a replacement for your usual 2 effective forms of birth control (contraception) because it is not as effective as regular birth control methods.

You can get EC from private doctors or nurse practitioners, women's health centers, or hospital emergency rooms. You can get the name and phone number of EC providers nearest you by calling the free Emergency Contraception Hotline at 1-888-NOT-2-LATE (1-888-668-2528).

- **Stop taking SORIATANE Capsules right away and contact your prescriber if you get pregnant while taking SORIATANE Capsules or at any time for at least 3 years after treatment has stopped. You need to discuss the possible effects on the unborn baby with your prescriber.**

- **If you do become pregnant while taking SORIATANE Capsules or at any time for at least 3 years after stopping SORIATANE Capsules, you should report your pregnancy to Stiefel Laboratories, Inc. at 1-888-500-DERM (3376) or directly to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) MedWatch program (1-800-FDA-1088).** Your name will be kept in private (confidential). The information you share will help the FDA and the manufacturer evaluate the Pregnancy Prevention Program for SORIATANE Capsules.

- **Do not take SORIATANE Capsules if you are breast feeding.** SORIATANE Capsules can pass into your milk and may harm your baby. You will need to choose either to breast feed or take SORIATANE Capsules, but not both.

#### **What should males know before taking SORIATANE Capsules?**

Small amounts of SORIATANE Capsules are found in the semen of males taking SORIATANE Capsules. Based upon available information, it appears that these small amounts of SORIATANE Capsules in semen pose little, if any, risk to an unborn child while a male patient is taking the drug or after it is discontinued. Discuss any concerns you have about this with your prescriber.

**All patients should read the rest of this Medication Guide.**

#### **What are SORIATANE Capsules?**

SORIATANE Capsules are a medicine used to treat severe forms of psoriasis in adults. Psoriasis is a skin disease that causes cells in the outer layer of the skin to grow faster than normal and pile up on the skin's surface. In the most common type of psoriasis, the skin becomes inflamed and produces red, thickened areas, often with silvery scales. **Because SORIATANE Capsules can have serious side effects,** you should talk with your prescriber about whether the possible benefits of SORIATANE Capsules outweigh its possible risks.

SORIATANE Capsules may not work right away. You may have to wait 2 to 3 months before you get the full benefit of SORIATANE Capsules. Psoriasis gets worse for some patients when they first start SORIATANE Capsules treatment.

SORIATANE Capsules have not been studied in children.

#### **Who should not take SORIATANE Capsules?**

- **Do NOT take SORIATANE Capsules if you can get pregnant.** Do not take SORIATANE Capsules if you are pregnant or might get pregnant during SORIATANE Capsules treatment or at any time for **at least 3 years** after you stop SORIATANE Capsules treatment (see "What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?").

- **Do NOT take SORIATANE Capsules if you are breast feeding.** SORIATANE Capsules can pass into your milk and may harm your baby. You will need to choose either to breast feed or take SORIATANE Capsules, but not both.

- **Do NOT take SORIATANE Capsules if you have severe liver or kidney disease.**

- **Do NOT take SORIATANE Capsules if you have repeated high blood lipids** (fat in the blood).

- **Do NOT take SORIATANE Capsules if you take these medicines:**

- methotrexate
- tetracyclines

The use of these medicines with SORIATANE Capsules may cause serious side effects.

- **Do NOT take SORIATANE Capsules if you are allergic to acitretin**, the active ingredient in SORIATANE Capsules, to any of the other ingredients (see the end of this MEDICATION GUIDE for a list of all the ingredients in SORIATANE Capsules), or to any similar drugs (ask your prescriber or pharmacist whether any drugs you are allergic to are related to SORIATANE Capsules).

**Tell your prescriber if you have or ever had:**

- diabetes or high blood sugar

- liver problems
- kidney problems
- high cholesterol or high triglycerides (fat in the blood)
- heart disease
- depression
- alcoholism
- an allergic reaction to a medication

Your prescriber needs this information to decide if SORIATANE Capsules is right for you and to know what dose is best for you.

**Tell your prescriber about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken while you also take SORIATANE Capsules. Some medicines may affect how SORIATANE Capsules works, or SORIATANE Capsules may affect how your other medicines work. **Be especially sure to tell your prescriber if you are taking the following medicines:**

- methotrexate
- tetracyclines
- phenytoin
- vitamin A supplements
- progestin-only oral contraceptives (“minipills”)
- Tegison<sup>®</sup> or Tigason (etretinate). Tell your prescriber if you have ever taken this medicine in the past.
- St. John’s Wort herbal supplement

**Tell your prescriber if you are getting phototherapy treatment.** Your doses of phototherapy may need to be changed to prevent a burn.

#### **How should I take SORIATANE Capsules?**

- Take SORIATANE Capsules with food.
- Be sure to take your medicine as prescribed by your prescriber. The dose of SORIATANE Capsules varies from patient to patient. The number of capsules you must take is chosen specially for you by your prescriber. This dose may change during treatment.
- If you miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Skip the missed dose and resume your normal schedule.
- If you take too much SORIATANE Capsules (overdose), call your local poison control center or emergency room.

You should have blood tests for liver function, cholesterol and triglycerides before starting treatment and during treatment to check your body’s response to SORIATANE Capsules. Your prescriber may also do other tests.

Once you stop taking SORIATANE Capsules, your psoriasis may return. Do *not* treat this new psoriasis with leftover SORIATANE Capsules. It is important to see your prescriber again for treatment recommendations because your situation may have changed.

#### **What should I avoid while taking SORIATANE Capsules?**

- **Avoid pregnancy.** See “What is the most important information I should know about SORIATANE Capsules?”, and “What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?”.
- **Avoid breast feeding.** See “What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?”
- **Avoid alcohol.** Females must avoid drinks, foods, medicines, and over-the-counter products that contain alcohol. The risk of birth defects may continue for longer than 3 years if you swallow any form of alcohol during SORIATANE Capsules treatment

and for 2 months after stopping SORIATANE Capsules (see “What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?”).

- **Avoid giving blood. Do not donate blood** while you are taking SORIATANE Capsules and **for at least 3 years after stopping** SORIATANE Capsules treatment. SORIATANE Capsules in your blood can harm an unborn baby if your blood is given to a pregnant woman. SORIATANE Capsules does not affect your ability to receive a blood transfusion.
- **Avoid progestin-only birth control pills (“minipills”).** This type of birth control pill may not work while you take SORIATANE Capsules. Ask your prescriber if you are not sure what type of pills you are using.
- **Avoid night driving if you develop any sudden vision problems.** Stop taking SORIATANE Capsules and call your prescriber if this occurs (see “Serious side effects.”).
- **Avoid non-medical ultraviolet (UV) light.** SORIATANE Capsules can make your skin more sensitive to UV light. Do not use sunlamps, and avoid sunlight as much as possible. If you are taking light treatment (phototherapy), your prescriber may need to change your light dosages to avoid burns.
- **Avoid dietary supplements containing vitamin A.** SORIATANE Capsules are related to vitamin A. Therefore, do not take supplements containing vitamin A, because they may add to the unwanted effects of SORIATANE Capsules. Check with your prescriber or pharmacist if you have any questions about vitamin supplements.
- **DO NOT SHARE SORIATANE Capsules with anyone else, even if they have the same symptoms.** Your medicine may harm them or their unborn child.

#### **What are the possible side effects of SORIATANE Capsules?**

- **SORIATANE Capsules can cause birth defects.** See “What is the most important information I should know about SORIATANE Capsules?” and “What are the important warnings and instructions for females taking SORIATANE Capsules?”
- Psoriasis gets worse for some patients when they first start SORIATANE Capsules treatment. Some patients have more redness or itching. If this happens, tell your prescriber. These symptoms usually get better as treatment continues, but your prescriber may need to change the amount of your medicine.

#### **Serious side effects.**

These do not happen often, but they can lead to permanent harm, or rarely, to death. Stop taking SORIATANE Capsules and call your prescriber right away if you get the following signs or symptoms:

- **Bad headaches, nausea, vomiting, blurred vision.** These symptoms can be signs of increased brain pressure that can lead to blindness or even death.
- **Decreased vision in the dark** (night blindness). Since this can start suddenly, you should be very careful when driving at night. This problem usually goes away when SORIATANE Capsules treatment stops. If you develop any vision problems or eye pain stop taking SORIATANE Capsules and call your prescriber.
- **Depression.** There have been some reports of patients developing mental problems including a depressed mood, aggressive feelings, or thoughts of ending their own life (suicide). These events, including suicidal behavior, have been reported in patients taking other drugs similar to SORIATANE Capsules as well as patients taking SORIATANE Capsules. Since other things may have contributed to these problems, it is not known if they are related to SORIATANE Capsules. It is very important to stop taking SORIATANE Capsules and call your prescriber right away if you develop such problems.
- **Yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite, or dark urine.** These can be signs of serious liver damage.
- **Aches or pains in your bones, joints, muscles, or back; trouble moving; loss of feeling in your hands or feet.** These can be signs of abnormal changes to your bones or muscles.
- **Frequent urination, great thirst or hunger.** SORIATANE Capsules can affect blood sugar control, even if you do not already have diabetes. These are some of the signs of high blood sugar.
- **Shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea, chest pain, weakness, trouble speaking, or swelling of a leg. These may be signs of a heart attack, blood clots, or stroke.** SORIATANE Capsules can cause serious changes in blood fats (lipids). It is possible for these changes to cause blood vessel blockages that lead to heart attacks, strokes, or blood clots.

**Common side effects.** If you develop any of these side effects or any unusual reaction, check with your prescriber to find out if you need to change the amount of SORIATANE Capsules you take. These side effects usually get better if the SORIATANE Capsules dose is reduced or SORIATANE Capsules are stopped.

• **Chapped lips; peeling fingertips, palms, and soles; itching; scaly skin all over; weak nails; sticky or fragile (weak) skin; runny or dry nose, or nosebleeds.** Your prescriber or pharmacist can recommend a lotion or cream to help treat drying or chapping.

• **Dry mouth**

• **Joint pain**

• **Tight muscles**

• **Hair loss.** Most patients have some hair loss, but this condition varies among patients. No one can tell if you will lose hair, how much hair you may lose or if and when it may grow back.

• **Dry eyes.** SORIATANE Capsules may dry your eyes. Wearing **contact lenses** may be uncomfortable during and after treatment with SORIATANE Capsules because of the dry feeling in your eyes. If this happens, remove your contact lenses and call your prescriber. Also read the section about vision under “Serious side effects”.

• **Rise in blood fats (lipids).** SORIATANE Capsules can cause your blood fats (lipids) to rise. Most of the time this is not serious. But sometimes the increase can become a serious problem (see information under “Serious side effects.”). You should have blood tests as directed by your prescriber.

These are not all the possible side effects of SORIATANE Capsules. For more information, ask your prescriber or pharmacist.

#### **How should I store SORIATANE Capsules?**

Keep SORIATANE Capsules away from sunlight, high temperature, and humidity. **Keep SORIATANE Capsules away from children.**

#### **What are the ingredients in SORIATANE Capsules?**

Active ingredient: acitretin

Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, sodium ascorbate, gelatin, black monogramming ink and maltodextrin (a mixture of polysaccharides). Gelatin capsule shells contain gelatin, iron oxide (yellow, black, and red), and titanium dioxide. They may also contain benzyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, edetate calcium disodium.

#### **General information about the safe and effective use of SORIATANE Capsules**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use SORIATANE Capsules for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SORIATANE Capsules to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about SORIATANE Capsules. If you would like more information, talk with your prescriber. You can ask your pharmacist or prescriber for information about SORIATANE Capsules that is written for health professionals.

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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